

with the greatest sincerity I must urge you to acknowledge the total disrespect Sinclair Broadcasting has for the fairness of this upcoming election. The media is a cornerstone of our political process, and the responsibility it has to be fair to each candidate must be recognized. Normally the media works well, and provides people with knowledge that becomes the basis for our freedom and happiness in this society. Sinclair's acts go beyond an obvious, measurable threshold of fairness.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.